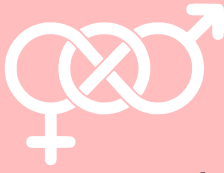


# GENDER AND SEXUALITY DIVERSITY EDUCATION IN SCHOOLS



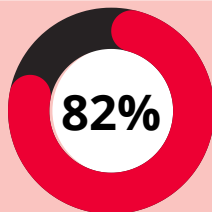
## What is Gender and Sexuality Diversity (GSD)?

GSD people do not identify as heterosexual and/or cisgender. Some GSD people identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and/or queer (LGBTQ). The term GSD acknowledges the fluid nature of gender and sexuality, and includes individuals who choose not to label their identities.



## What is GSD-Inclusive Curriculum?

School curriculum, teaching, and learning, which supports and values gender and sexuality diversity. 'Inclusion' is one of the primary principles within the Australian Student Wellbeing Framework;<sup>1</sup> However, many schools are still falling behind in the support of GSD acceptance.



More than 80% of Australian parents agree Gender and Sexuality Diversity should be taught in government schools.<sup>2</sup>



## GSD students are often targets for discrimination

Despite increased national and international acceptance of such diversity, many schools continue to be marginalising environments for GSD students. 9 in 10 GSD students report hearing homophobic language at school and many report hearing it almost every day.<sup>3</sup>



## "People should accept each other for who they are"

This statement particularly resonated with parents.<sup>4</sup> Parents support GSD-inclusive education because they want schools to be accepting, equitable and safe environments, in line with the values included in Australia's *Student Wellbeing Framework*.<sup>1</sup>

**By and large, parents support inclusion whatever their identity or background.**

Culturally and linguistically diverse parents are just as likely to support GSD-inclusive curriculum as other parents.



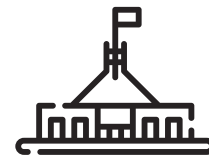
Nearly 70% of parents either "agree" or "strongly agree" that 'Providing Relationships and Sexual Health Education must involve a number of stakeholders (such as parents, schools, teachers and students).'<sup>5</sup>



Regardless of the age of their children, parents are equally supportive of GSD-inclusive curriculum.



While Labor and Greens voters are somewhat more likely to support a GSD-inclusive curriculum, over three-quarters of Liberal/Nationals voters (79%) want these topics introduced to students.



### References:

1. Education Services Australia (2020). Australian Student Wellbeing Framework, Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment. Accessed from <https://studentwellbeinghub.edu.au/educators/framework/>
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3. Jacqueline Ullman (2021). *Free2Be... Yet?: The second national study of Australian high school students who identify as gender and sexuality diverse*. Centre for Educational Research, School of Education, Western Sydney University, Penrith. DOI: [10.26183/3pxm-2t07](https://doi.org/10.26183/3pxm-2t07)
4. Lucy Hobby, Jacqueline Ullman, Tania Ferfolja (2021). Parental Attitudes Towards Inclusiveness Instrument (PATII): Psychometric evaluation of a new instrument measuring parental beliefs about gender and sexuality diversity inclusions in schools, *Journal of School Psychology*. DOI: [10.1016/j.jsp.2021.02.008](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsp.2021.02.008)
5. Tania Ferfolja, Jacqueline Ullman, and Lucy Hobby (2021). Gender and Sexuality Diversity in Schools: Parental Experiences and Schooling Responses. New South Wales – Snapshot Report. Western Sydney University, Penrith. DOI: [10.26183/tmjr-zj59](https://doi.org/10.26183/tmjr-zj59)



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